



IDAHO

KIDS IN ACTION



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Note from the Director

Time to Assess your Service Learning

As we “round the bend” and head for this year’s home stretch, some of you have completed some awesome service learning projects, and others are right in the heat of them. This is a good time to do an assessment of the success of your activity, what your students learned, and the effectiveness of your planning and partnerships. Assessment is a continual process to make sure that your service learning has produced appropriate learning for your students and provided real value for the community. There are the traditional methods for doing assessments, such as essays and quizzes or other analysis including student reflective writing and presentations. Whatever method is used, there are some basic questions you need to ask in relation to student learning, the impact of the service to the community, and the effectiveness of your process. Here is a summary of questions to ask:

Student Learning: Were the defined curricular connections and skill objectives met? Did students show initiative or develop leadership skills?

Impact of the service: Were the students able to recognize the need and purpose of their service efforts? Were the partner agencies or service recipients satisfied with the interaction?

The process: How effective was your project planning? In future activities, how can students participate more and take greater ownership?

— Hope this is helpful in your assessment process. Through your schools, service learning is being showcased in Idaho. I encourage you to keep up the good work!

Burton Elementary

Shared Moments with the Elderly

Elderly...who are they and how did they get that way? This was the question posed to the children at Burton Elementary School. The year began by learning about living and non-living things. Each first grade child was given a mealworm to take home and they were told that it would turn into a beetle. Katrina Toll was the only student who successfully kept hers alive as it went through the cycle. The beetle is now a part of our school, waiting in bran flakes for the day he can be released into nature.

Then as more life cycles were introduced, the children learned about the four stages of a butterfly. Mrs. Maguire, parent of second grader, James, was kind enough to donate a “sea monkey” kit and the children watched as they hatched, grew, laid eggs, died and hatched again.

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Burton Elementary visiting Elderly Residents

Photo by Kyra Davis—Standard Journal

Mullan Trail Elementary, Post Falls, ID

Kids Care Club

Why would 100 Mullan Trail Elementary students give up their afternoon recess to help younger students read? The answer comes from 10-year-old Garrett Williams, "It's fun. I like hanging out with little kids and helping them read. It gives little kids a chance to talk to someone if they need help." The Mullan Trail Elementary "Kids Care Club" has welcomed the involvement of all students as well as interested middle school students. This literacy-based service learning club pairs older and younger learners, providing opportunities to promote academic learning, personal growth and civic responsibility. This partnership has helped students reach their highest potential and work together to help others.

Students on the Youth Leadership Team researched local agencies to find out what they needed and then chose projects that they felt would really make a difference.

The following are some of the projects that students were involved with.

1. **School-wide peer tutoring.** Initially, students attended a mandatory training session to learn the art of tutoring. One hundred 4th and 5th grade students tutor reading and writing with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students. All tutors are volunteers and have been assigned a reading buddy.
2. **Readers' Theater.** Middle school students and 5th graders rehearsed and performed Readers' Theater stories at the Post Falls Public Library for Head Start preschoolers and kindergarteners. Readers' Theater is a fun way to create interest and skill in reading. In January, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders participated in book making sessions. Three types of books were made: One was a set of story books that were donated to the Post Falls Domestic Violence Shelter. Another was for new students entitled, "Welcome to Mullan Trail" consisting of staff photos and a place for autographs. The last set of books was designed for several local preschools to use when teaching pre-reading skills.



The staff at Mullan Trail Elementary is very proud of their students' dedication to helping others. Their collaboration with community partners and their devotion to follow through with projects and tutoring tasks have all contributed to their positive experience of service learning.

Kids Care Club

Burton Elementary (continued from page 1)

Next, the students began learning and understanding about plants and their life cycle. Each child decorated and prepared a clay pot. They learned about bulbs and how they grow, bloom and then become dormant again until the next season of growing. Children compared the life cycles they had learned about with the human life cycle. They discussed how they were babies, then grew into children, would someday become teenagers, then adults and finally join the elderly population. Plans were made to prepare a program to share with the elderly. Children learned about respecting the elderly and appreciate what they could learn from them.

With nearly two hundred potted bulbs in tow, the children boarded buses for their big adventure. It was a touching sight as the children visited the rooms of the residents who could not leave their beds and lovingly presented them with the colorful potted flowers.

The program was planned as a variety road show with each grade preparing a mini program. Kindergarten learned a poem about a snowman, and then sang a song to go with the poem. The first grade chose to sing about the presidents of the United States and play songs on their newly acquired Melodicas. Second grade sang songs about friendship and did a readers' theater. Third grade sang songs about the seasons, including dancing and sign language. The variety show finished with fourth grade singing patriotic songs. The day finished with students reading stories with the elderly and asking questions about their lives. Fourth grade plans to follow up with some biographies. All the students were asked to write journal entries about what they have learned.

Finally, as spring approaches, the students plan to see actual life cycles as third grade incubates eggs for hatching chicks, and first and second grade will

watch the exciting cycles of ladybugs, butterflies and earthworms.

Peggy Rogers, Teacher/Service Learning Coordinator

Important Dates to Remember

January 15, 2008 - First Progress Report Due

February 15, 2008—Request for Proposals Released for 2008—2009

February 27-29, 2008 - Serve Idaho Conference - Post Falls, ID.

March 17, 2008—RFP Application Closing Dates

April 9-12, 2008—19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference—Minneapolis, MN.

April 15, 2008—Notification of Grant Awards



Burton Readers

Photo by Kyra Davis—Standard Journal



Burton 1st graders singing to elderly residents



State Department of
Education

Tom Luna
Superintendent of Public
Instruction
650 W. State Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
208-332-6800

**For more information
contact:**

Cheryl Kary at
208-332-6913
cmkary@sde.idaho.gov
or
Tina Naillon at
208-332-6904

Learn and Serve Idaho provides young people with opportunities to serve Idaho by connecting community service with academic learning, personal growth, and civic responsibility. Grantees create new service learning programs, replicate existing models, and train staff, faculty, adult volunteers, and students in service learning. Participants are K-12, school-age youth.

Eligible applicants for Learn & Serve grants are Idaho K-12 schools of any grade span. Grantee schools must be committed to service learning as a teaching/learning strategy and as an integral component of education.

The vision of Learn and Serve Idaho is to assist schools in implementing site-based programs of service learning through policy, practice, and capacity building. Learn and Serve Idaho provides financial and technical assistance to schools as they develop and implement policies and supportive structures at all levels, while reducing barriers to the institutionalization of service learning.

Student's Corner

Service Learning

By Cami—4th Grade
Burton Elementary

I would define service learning as a chance to help people and have fun at the same time, and getting to know new people. I think its really fun getting to do this for people, and I enjoy it a lot. I'm excited to go to the nursing home and write a biography about someone there. I'm excited.

Service

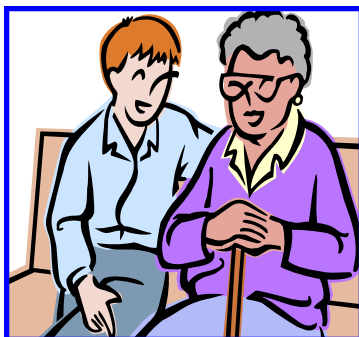
By Tanner Mc—3rd Grade
Burton Elementary

I volunteered to serve my country and community when we made cars. I felt something good inside when I served. I might be a painter. When I made baby blankets I felt the same thing. I might be a baby blanket maker. I learned a lot of talents from this process. We earned money when we sold clothes that we did not need any more. These are service projects I helped with. Doing service for other people is good to do.

Service

By Ryker —1st Grade
Burton Elementary

We learned about peace education. We made 1,000 paper cranes [for peace]. We canned food for the poor. We wrote letters for the soldiers. We learned about life cycles. We know life cycles are babies, children, teenagers, grownups, then grandmas and grandpas. On Friday we are going to retirement centers. We made pots for the retirement home. I feel happy now. [Edited for spelling only]



IDAHO

LEARN AND SERVE SUB- GRANT PROGRAM

CURRENT SUBGRANTEES

2007-2008

- ◇ **The Alameda Center—** Pocatello, ID
- ◇ **ANSER Charter School—** Boise, ID
- ◇ **Burton Elementary—** Rexburg, ID
- ◇ **Highlands Elementary—** Boise, ID
- ◇ **Lakeland High School—** Rathdrum, ID
- ◇ **Lapwai Elementary—** Lapwai, ID
- ◇ **Middleton High School—** Middleton, ID
- ◇ **Mullan Trail Elementary—**
Post Falls, ID
- ◇ **Orofino Jr. & Sr. High School—**
Orofino, ID
- ◇ **Parma Learning Center—** Parma, ID
- ◇ **Sorensen Magnet School of the
Arts & Humanities—** Coeur d'Alene, ID
- ◇ **Wendell Middle School—** Wendell, ID